

only through the co-operation and understanding of all nations. The first of these freedoms, namely freedom of speech, is indissolubly tied in with freedom of the press for without either one of these, the other could not exist.

In the establishment of the basic international co-operation and understanding upon which the four freedoms must rest lies the great challenge to the news associations of the free countries of the world. Very soon these great news agencies will be organizing exchanges of news with liberated countries. This news should be as free as it is possible to make it and that freedom should be guaranteed by the Great Powers. Only then will foundations of an enduring peace be truly laid. In final analysis the responsibility of the news associations falls individually and jointly on every honest publisher of news. The weekly newspaper, the radio station, the large and influential dailies—all must unite in a crusade to further this cause of freedom and of true democracy. If a glance backward be taken to conditions as they existed in the years prior to the War, it is impossible to escape the thought that this catastrophe might have been avoided if news had been free in the 'dictator' countries. There was no free press in Germany. The German news agencies, DNB and Transocean, were intent only on issuing propaganda, always biased and seldom honest, to an unwary world. Instead of trying to report the facts, they were primarily intent on shaping German minds for the war that had been planned. They were also systematically building fear of the Reich in the hearts of neighbouring peoples—in Austria, Hungary, and the Balkans and wherever their connections reached. The theme of their propaganda was that the democracies were decadent, unprepared and quite helpless and by constant repetition and clever planning they were very successful in 'putting across' this idea.

In Italy the situation was much the same. Stefani, the official Government news agency, knew no freedom. All the news was moulded to meet Mussolini's twisted psychology—the psychology of passionate belief in Italy and her destiny and of derision and contempt for democratic countries. The actual functioning of this policy was seen at an early date. During the Abyssinian crisis, the Fascist press screamed that the League of Nations was weak, that Britain was decadent, and powerless. There can be no doubt at all that such distortion of the news and the use of the news-gathering machine for the self-aggrandizement of the dictators was one of their most important instruments and an underlying cause of the War.

Japan's news agency, Domei, has been no less culpable. The helpless peoples of Asia were barred from knowledge of each other by high walls of ignorance and prejudice and the news-gathering machinery here was also used to condition the Japanese nation for war.

Never having experienced it, it is almost impossible for Canadians to realize how the life and thought of a country can be so warped by controlled news. Subject only to military security in wartime, Canadians have been used to getting 'the whole story' both in newspapers and on the air. The habitual policy of public criticism is understood and accepted whether it be of Hong Kong or Dieppe or of more domestic aspects of the War or on any other matter. Such criticism could not have happened in any of the dictator countries. It would have been suppressed before it had had time to find expression.

What ought to be of interest, and yet is not widely enough known to Canadians, is how this freedom grew and ripened in Canada and how the Canadian Press actually operates to-day. This is touched on in the following paragraphs.